

Jeremiah 37:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD; Deceive not yourselves, saying, The Chaldeans shall surely depart from us: for they shall not depart.

Analysis

God warns against self-deception: 'Deceive not yourselves.' When Babylon temporarily withdrew, people thought judgment was averted. But God says even if they defeated all Babylon's army, leaving only wounded men, those wounded would rise and burn the city. This hyperbole emphasizes the certainty of God's decreed judgment. No human power can prevent what God has determined.

Historical Context

The Egyptian army's approach had caused Babylon to lift the siege temporarily (37:5). People thought they were delivered, but God's purpose remained unchanged.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you guard against self-deception about spiritual realities?
2. What does this teach about the certainty of God's declared purposes?

Interlinear Text

לֹא־מֵרָחֹק	כֵּן־אָמַר	יְהוָה	אֵל	תִּשְׁתָּחֲדוּ	לֹא־תִדְּעוּ	כֵּן־אָמַר
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	H408	Deceive	not yourselves	Thus saith
	H559	H3068		H5377	H5315	H559
יִלְכּוּ׃	יִלְכּוּ׃	מִעַל יָדוֹ	הַכַּשְׂדִּים	כִּי	לֹא	יִלְכּוּ׃
shall surely	shall surely	H5921	The Chaldeans	H3588	H3808	shall surely
H1980	H1980		H3778			H1980

Additional Cross-References

Obadiah 1:3 (Parallel theme): The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?

Jeremiah 29:8 (References Lord): For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.

Ephesians 5:6 (Parallel theme): Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

James 1:22 (Parallel theme): But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Galatians 6:3 (Parallel theme): For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

Galatians 6:7 (Parallel theme): Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (Parallel theme): Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

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